

National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 2010

National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated annually in May to commemorate the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the United States. The Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management (EODM) Division has compiled a listing of local events being held in observance of National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Most events are free and open to the public, except where noted.

Also listed are websites with activities that test your knowledge of Asian Pacific history through the use of crossword puzzles, games, and trivia. Please visit the websites to learn more about Asian Pacific History.

Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Family Day: Art of Gaman, Smithsonian Renwick Gallery, Grand Salon, Saturday, May 1, 2010, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with an infusion of Japanese American culture. Enjoy exhibition-themed stories and traditional folktales with Anne Shimojima, music and dance performances by Nen Daiko and the Kikuyuki Dancers of America, traditional games, a scavenger hunt, and "garden journal" activities.

Thai Night, Saturday, May 1, 5pm – 7pm, University of Maryland – College Park, MD, Nyumburu Cultural Center. Event includes music, entertainment, dance performances, a play, and Thai food. Sponsored by the Thai Student Association, Asian American Studies Program. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Kanokphan (Mew) Rattanawatkul, rattanawatkul@yahoo.com ([map](#))

'Bangladesh: Life and Dance' at the Asian Dance and Music Festival, Thursday, May 06, 2010 at 7:30 PM, George Mason University Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, DHROOPAD will perform native dances of India to celebrate National Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month; event organized by the Asian American Music Society.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Arts & Crafts Festival, Friday, May 7, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Smithsonian Natural History Museum, Rotunda, 1st Floor, Washington, DC. This fun filled day of arts

and crafts demonstrations includes Laotian knot tying and banana-leaf folding, Chinese paper folding, Indian *rangoli* designs, Japanese doll making, Korean calligraphy and fiber art, Mongolian watercolor work and mask making, Philippine weaving, and Thai soap and fruit carving.

“Birth of the Monkey King” Thursday, May 7, and Friday, May 8, at 10:15 and 11:30 a.m., Meyer Auditorium, The Freer Gallery of Art and Discovery Theater. In a shadow theater adaptation of the Chinese classic “Journey to the West,” the fantastic simian troublemaker Sun Wu Kung (aka, Handsome Monkey King) gathers his superpowers and shakes the foundations of heaven. This program is recommended for children ages 5 through 12. Tickets are required: \$4 for Resident Associate members; general admission is \$5 for children and \$6 for adults. For reservations, call (202) 633-3030.

Asian Fair. Saturday, May 8, 10am-7pm and Sunday, May 9, 11am-7pm, Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, VA. The “Asian Fair” is a two day indoor cultural event to celebrate Asian Heritage Month. It offers live Asian performances, parade with DRAGON and LION dances, handicrafts, children's games, Chinese language and cooking workshop, variety of Asian food, and also Lantern Gate and Dragon mold will be created to bring more fun!

“Dancing Through the Asian American Experience,” Friday, May 8, at 6 p.m., McEvoy Auditorium, Smithsonian American Art Museum This event will highlight dance artist Dana Tai Soon Burgess, who will present the original works “Chino Latino” and “Hyphen,” the latter of which integrates the work of video artist Nam June Paik. He will also perform a work in progress, “Island,” which explores the Asian Pacific American experience at the Angel Island Immigration Station in California. Following the performance, Burgess and his dancers will take part in a discussion with Ken Hakuta, the nephew of Paik.

Jean Shin: Common Threads Tour, Thursdays, May 13, and 27, 6 p.m., Sundays, May 17 and 31, 2 p.m., Smithsonian American Art Museum, meet in the F Street lobby. This sixty-minute tour of the exhibition *Jean Shin: Common Threads* features a look at the piece *Unraveling*, which consists of “deconstructed sweaters” collected from Asian American art communities around the country. Jean Chin is an artist who is nationally recognized for her monumental installations that

cause us to reflect on what our castoffs say about us. A native of Seoul, Korea, Shin and her family immigrated to Maryland when she was a young child.

Lecture by Victoria Kneubuhl, Wednesday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m., Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Rasmuson Theater. Playwright and novelist Kneubuhl (Native Hawaiian/Samoan) will read from her works, which include "Hawai'i Nei," an anthology of three plays, and "Murder Casts a Shadow," a mystery set in Honolulu in the 1930s. This lecture is part of the Vine Deloria Jr. Native Writers Series. A book signing will follow the lecture.

The National Asian Heritage Festival -Fiesta Asia, Saturday, May 22, 2010, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Pennsylvania Avenue, between 3rd & 6th Streets, NW, Washington, DC. The closest Metro stations are Capitol South or Eastern Market. Fiesta Asia is a street fair held in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The event showcases Asian art and culture with a wide array of activities including live performances by musicians, vocalists and performance artists, Pan-Asian cuisine, martial arts and lion dance demonstrations, a multicultural marketplace, cultural displays and interactive activities. A parade featuring lion dances and regional cultural organizations begins at 2:00 p.m. Asian delicacies will be available for purchase - fresh sugar cane juice, bulgogi, halo-halo, pastel and many more. For more information, visit www.asiaheritagefoundation.org.

3-Day Cultural Festival: Celebrate Hawai'i: Hula, Saturday, May 29, 2010, 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Smithsonian, American Indian Museum; events will be held in the Potomac Alcove, Rasmuson Theater, Resource Center, and Outdoor Areas. Events include:

- 10:30 AM–12 Noon: **Hawaiian Plants**. Samuel M. 'Ohukani' hi'a Gon III, senior scientist and cultural advisor at the Hawai'i Nature Conservancy, discusses indigenous Hawaiian botany (Potomac Alcove).
- 11 AM: **Short Films from Hawai'i**. This showcase features short narratives from young Hawaiian filmmakers (Rasmuson Theater).
- 11:30 AM–12:30 PM: **Hawaiian Cooking Demonstration**. Mitsitam Native Foods Cafe executive chef Richard Hetzler demonstrates the art of Hawaiian cooking. (Outdoor Akaloa Fire Pit; rain location: Potomac).

- 12 Noon: **Learn the Hula.** Join local musicians and dancers to learn some hula moves (3rd Level, Resource Center).
- 1 PM: **Hula Dancing and Hula Workshop.** Hālaulau O 'Aulani and the Aloha Boys perform. A hula dance lesson is included (Potomac Atrium).
- 2 PM: **The Natural World of the Hula.** Dr. Samuel M. 'Ohukani' 'hi'a Gon III discusses the symbolism of the hula and how it relates to the land and sea (Rasmuson Theater).
- 3:30 PM: **Hula Dancing and Hula Workshop.** Hālaulau O 'Aulani and the Aloha Boys perform. A hula dance lesson is included (Potomac Atrium).
- 3:30–4:30 PM: **Hawaiian Plants.** Samuel M. 'Ohukani' 'hi'a Gon III, senior scientist and cultural advisor at the Hawai'i Nature Conservancy, discusses indigenous

For a complete listing of events being held at the Smithsonian in observance of Asian Pacific Heritage Month, please click on the [Smithsonian Education & Heritage Month](#) link for event dates, times and locations.

The Asian Pacific Americans: Local Lives, Global Ties – Smithsonian Folklife Festival, June 24-28 and July 1-5, 2010, outdoors on the National Mall, Washington, DC, between the Smithsonian museums. The program will focus on what it means to be a person of Asian descent living in the United States today and examines strategies for adaptation. Through interactions with theater, music, dance performances, language and calligraphy traditions, martial arts, healing arts, ritual arts, crafts and food ways demonstrations, sports and games presentations, children's activities, Festival visitors will learn about Asian Pacific Americans' (APA) history, culture, and discover shared and integrated traditions among APAs.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Puzzles

[Quiz: Asian Pacific Americans](#)

[Quiz: Asian Pacific American Leaders](#)

[Quiz: Asian Pacific American Entertainers](#)

[Crossword Puzzle- Asian Pacific American History](#)

(The featured topic changes weekly)

[DePaul University: Crossword Puzzle - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#)

[Concentration Game: Asian Capitals](#)

(This is a game of all Asian states (nations, countries) and their capitals)